

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
L-03 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /110 W
-----040339 161220Z /11
O 161103Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6032

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 GENEVA 02400

IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES, DALLEY AND MILLS
S/IL FOR DALE GOOD
DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SAMUEL AND LINSSENMEYER
COMMERCE FOR PETERSEN

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: ILO
SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE

REF: (A) GENEVA 01883 (B) GENEVA 02070 (C) GENEVA 02155

SUMMARY: (1) GOVERNMENT GROUP DEADLOCKED ON ARTICLE 7;
(2) SOVIET PERFORMANCE PUZZLES DELEGATES. END SUMMARY

1. SINCE THE OPENING OF THE TRIPARTITE WORKING PARTY
ON STRUCTURE ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY, NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN
MADE ON THE ARTICLE 7 DEBATE. IT WAS AGREED THEN THAT
THE SMALL GROUP OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WOULD
CONTINUE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS UNTIL A SOLUTION
WAS FOUND. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WAS AGREED IN THE
TRIPARTITE WPS THAT ARTICLES 17 AND 36, QUORUM AND THE
NON-GOVERNMENT ISSUES WOULD BE DEFERRED. THERE HAS
BEEN, HOWEVER FAVORABLE INFORMAL REACTIONS FROM G-77
TO THE IMEC TEXTS CONCERNING ARTICLES 36 AND 17 (REF C).
SPECULATION SUGGESTS SOME CHANGES WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE
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OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE.

2. SOVIET (BORCHTCHEVSKI) PERFORMANCE TO DATE HAS
PUZZLED MANY WPS PARTICIPANTS. LAST WEEK'S PERFORMANCE
IN THE GOVERNMENT GROUP AMOUNTED TO THE SOVIETS SAYING
THAT THEY HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH ARTICLES 7, 36 AND 17
AS THEY NOW STAND. THAT THE REAL PROBLEM OF THE

ORGANIZATION IS DISCRIMINATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE NON-GOVERNMENT GROUP. DESPITE STRONG EASTERN EUROPEAN INTERVENTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT GROUP REFUSED TO DEBATE THE N-G ISSUE AS IT WAS IN REALITY A WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUP ISSUE.

3. ON TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY, WHILE THE CHAIRMAN (HELDA, NORWAY) WAS DISCUSSING THE ORDER OF BUSINESS. BORCHTCHEVSKI MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT URGING DISCUSSION OF THE NON-GOVERNMENT GROUP COMPOSITION ITEM. BERGENSTROM (EMPLOYER SPOKESMAN) THEN OBSERVED THAT THE EMPLOYERS WERE WAITING FOR THE GOVERNMENT GROUP TO PROGRESS ON ARTICLES 7 AND 36. BORCHTCHEVSKI COUNTERED, SAYING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS SHOULD HAVE MORE RESPECT FOR THE GOVERNMENT GROUP. THIS TRIGGERED COMMENT FROM MUHR (WORKER SPOKESMAN) WHO RESENTED THE INFERENCE THAT THE WORKERS WERE DRAGGING THEIR HEELS AND NOT COMING FORWARD WITH PROPOSALS.

4. AT THIS JUNCTURE, BORCHTCHEVSKI UNLEASHED A TIRADE DENOUNCING THE WPS PARTICIPANTS (ESPECIALLY THE EMPLOYERS) FOR NOT DISCUSSING THE REAL PROBLEM; THAT IS, EQUITABLE AND PROPORTIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYERS SEATS ON THE GOVERNING BODY.

5. ALTHOUGH POINTS OF ORDER WERE RAISED, THE CHAIRMAN
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LET BORCHTCHEVSKI CONTINUE AND AS HE DID SO, HE HEIGHTENED HIS ASSAULT. AT MIDPOINT, HE DREW IN THE UNITED STATES, COUPLED WITH A THREAT. HIS WORDS WERE AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE I SHOULD LIKE - WELL I DO NOT KNOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, WHAT YOU THINK OF MY COLLEAGUES IN THE GROUP (SIC GOVERNMENT GROUP THAT IS), BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO YOU THAT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS MY OWN PERSONAL IMPRESSION WAS, AFTER OUR MEETINGS, THAT I HAD A SORT OF PAINFUL IMPRESSION. I HAD A RATHER PAINFUL FEELING, AN IMPRESSION AS IF I HAD BEEN SITTING IN THE TRENCHES OF THE COLD WAR, AND INDEED LET US LOOK AROUND US. WHAT IS GOING ON? AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL LEVEL WE ARE DEVELOPING RELATIONS; WE ARE SEEKING WAYS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND NOT WITHOUT SUCCESS. IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, IN THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD, IN TRADE, WE KEEP ON FINDING NEW POSSIBILITIES TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONS. DOES THIS PRECLUDE ANY DISAGREEMENT IN OPINION, DIFFERENCES OF OPINION - NOT AT ALL. BUT WE FIND THESE POSSIBILITIES AND WHAT WE FIND IS OF MUTUAL ADVANTAGE TO ALL THOSE WHO TAKE PART IN THIS PROCESS, BUT HERE IN THIS ROOM, AND PARTICULARLY I AM NOW THINKING OF THOSE SITUATIONS IN THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP, WE ARE STILL AT THE STAGE OF

CONFRONTATION.

SOME OF US ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO LOOK NOT FORWARD BUT BACK. DOES THIS CORRESPOND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERESTS OF THIS ORGANIZATION? NO, IT DOES NOT, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT IS PRECISELY WHY WE ARE SO INSISTENTLY, YEAR AFTER YEAR, SAYING LET US LOOK FORWARD, LET US LOOK AHEAD, LET US STOP HANGING ON TO WHAT HAS GONE, BACK INTO THE PAST.

WE ARE PATIENT AND I BELIEVE THAT NOBODY OF THOSE PRESENT HERE CAN DISPUTE THIS QUALITY. I COULD REMIND THE

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O 161103Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6033

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 GENEVA 02400

IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES, DALLEY AND MILLS
S/IL FOR DALE GOOD
DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SAMUEL AND LINENMEYER
COMMERCE FOR PETERSEN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, EVERYBODY KNOWS, ALL OF YOU KNOW WHAT WERE THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN THIS ORGANIZATION. THEY FELT HERE AS IF THEY WERE AT HOME IN WASHINGTON. IF THEY SNEEZED ONCE, HALF OF THE ILO WAS SICK. THEY COUGHED, AND WHAT IS UNREAL IS THAT HERE EVERYBODY TRIES TO TURN INTO REALITY. YET THEY WERE OFFENDED, THEY WERE OFFENDED WITH EVERYBODY AND THEY LEFT. THEY WALKED OUT OF THIS ORGANIZATION. WELL, THAT IS NOT OUR BUSINESS, MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS IS A QUESTION FOR THE UNITED STATES, I JUST MENTIONED IT.

TODAY I AM SPEAKING OF SOMETHING ELSE. IN THE COURSE OF MANY YEARS, WE, THE SOVIET UNION, THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HAVE PATIENTLY BEEN EXPLAINING THE RIGHTNESS OF OUR POSITION, THE JUSTICE OF OUR DEMANDS AND THEIR

WELL-FOUNDED BASIS AND I COULD REMIND YOU IF PERHAPS
NOT EVERYBODY REMEMBERS, BUT WE PAY A FAIR AMOUNT INTO
THIS ORGANIZATION, ALMOST \$15 MILLION A YEAR. AND WE
ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE THE OTHERS, WE ARE HOPING THAT
REASON WILL PREVAIL. BUT, MR. CHAIRMAN, I SHOULD LIKE
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TO SAY THAT OUR PATIENCE IS NOT TO BE TAKEN FOR WELFARE
WORK. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WELFARE, OF CHARITY.
IT IS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, A PROOF OF OUR RESPECT OF THE
DUTIES WE HAVE TO THIS ORGANIZATION.

IT IS RESPECT FOR OUR PARTNERS IN THIS ORGANIZATION.
IT BEARS WITNESS TO OUR READINESS TO DEVELOP MULTI-SIDED
COOPERATION IN THE ILO, AND I WOULD SAY THAT THIS
PATIENCE OF OURS, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, IS ALSO AN
UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACT THAT SOME TIME IS STILL
NECESSARY FOR SOME IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE INERTIA OF
THE PAST. BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THIS, VERY FRANKLY;
THERE IS A LIMIT TO EVERYTHING. WE ARE NOT ASKING - AND
IF TODAY I SAY ALL THIS IN SUCH A FRANK MANNER, I SHOULD
LIKE, IN CONCLUSION OF MY STATEMENT, TO SAY WE ARE
NOT ASKING FOR CHARITY AND WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY CRUMBS,
ANY SMALL CONCESSIONS. WE SAY ONCE MORE THAT WE HAVE
DUTIES TO THIS ORGANIZATION AND WE FULFILL THEM, BUT WE
ALSO HAVE RIGHTS, AND WE SAY, WE DEMAND, THAT WE SHOULD
BE GIVEN THOSE RIGHTS WHICH SHOULD BE OURS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND NOT MERELY
BECAUSE WE SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEM. AND, IN CONCLUSION,
MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THERE IS NO PROBLEM
OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS, THAT
PROBLEM DOES NOT EXIST. THERE IS A PROBLEM OF THE
FUTURE OF THIS ORGANIZATION, A PROBLEM OF THE PLACE
WHICH THIS ORGANIZATION HOLDS IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD,
A PROBLEM OF ITS PRACTICAL USE, ITS USEFULNESS FOR ALL
MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION WITHOUT EXCEPTION, AND IT
IS PRECISELY IN THIS SENSE THAT WE ARE SPEAKING; TO
SAY THAT THE QUESTION OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE STRUCTURE,
THE QUESTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
GROUPS IS A KEY QUESTION. THAT IS PRECISELY THE SENSE
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IN WHICH THAT PROBLEM EXISTS IN THE ORGANIZATION. THAT
IS WHY, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE CONSIDER THAT AT THIS STAGE OF
THE WORK IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR US TO LAY ASIDE ANY OTHER
PROBLEM OF STRUCTURE. AND FINALLY, SERIOUSLY,

TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS, WE ARE PREPARED TO WAIT, THE GOVERNMENT GROUP MET SEVERAL TIMES SEPARATELY, WE ARE PREPARED TO WAIT AND TO GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS TO HOLD THEIR MEETINGS DURING THIS SESSION, PERHAPS BETWEEN THE SESSIONS. WE ARE NOT TRYING TO DISTRIBUTE THEIR SEATS FOR THEMSELVES, LET THEM DO THAT THEMSELVES BUT LET THEM PROPOSE TO US THEIR SOLUTION, THEIR SOLUTION CONCERNING AN EQUITABLE AND PROPORTIONATE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS IN THEIR GROUPS. AND WE WILL WAIT. AND AFTER THEY HAVE PULLED THEMSELVES UP TO THE LEVEL AT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT GROUP NOW FINDS ITSELF, THEN WE WILL TAKE GREATER STRIDES FORWARD. I MAKE THIS PROPOSAL, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND HOPE THAT MY FRIENDS FROM THE 77 GROUP, MY COLLEAGUES FROM THE IMEC GROUP, WILL STUDY THIS PROPOSAL MOST SERIOUSLY. I THINK THAT THAT PRECISELY IS THE WAY IN WHICH WE CAN HOPE TO ACHIEVE REAL PROGRESS IN CARRYING OUT THE TASKS THAT HAVE BEEN SET US BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. UNQUOTE

6. BERGENSTROM RESPONDED WITH REMARKS WHICH INCLUDED "...WE ARE DEALING VERY SERIOUSLY WITH THIS PROBLEM, THIS VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM, IN OUR OWN GROUP, AND SOME OF THE THINGS MR. BORCHTCHEVSKI SAID WERE MAYBE THINGS I MUST SAY I RESENT. I RESENT REFERENCE TO THE COLD WAR. IF THAT IS WHAT MR. BORCHTCHEVSKI WANTS, HE CAN HAVE IT, BUT I WOULD HOPE THAT THINGS OF THAT SORT WILL NOT BE BROUGHT INTO OUR DEBATES...."UNQUOTE

7. AT THE OPENING OF WEDNESDAY TRIPARTITE SESSION, BERGENSTROM IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE GROUP (U.S. OBSERVER TEMPORARILY DETAINED, OBTAINING FOREGOING TEXT),
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THAT TUESDAY'S INTERVENTION HAD SET BACK EMPLOYER

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6034

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 GENEVA 02400

IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES, DALLEY AND MILLS

S/IL FOR DALE GOOD

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DISCUSSIONS BY SEVERAL YEARS.

8. SEVERAL IMEC GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, EMPLOYERS (IMEC AND G-77), AN AMBASSADOR FROM G-77 AND SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL WERE ASTONISHED AT THE INTERVENTION. SOME POINTED OUT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ISOLATED BECAUSE G-77 AND IMEC SEEM TO HAVE DRAWN CLOSER TOGETHER THIS SESSION; THAT LACKING SUPPORT (WHICH HAS BEEN NON-EXISTENT SO FAR) THE SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED TO USE THREATS AS LEVERAGE. OTHER SPECULATION SUGGESTS THAT THEY HAD HOPED TO SEE CONTINUED G-77 DISCONTENT THUS CONTINUING THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. WITH THESE HOPES DIMINISHING, THEY ARE ACTING AS SPOILERS, TRYING TO FIND A WEDGE TO DRIVE IN BETWEEN THE G-77 AND IMEC. EMPLOYERS REPORT THAT THE INTERVENTION HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT TO POLYAKOR (USSR "EMPLOYER") WHO HAS LABORED HARD TO SWAY EMPLOYER REACTION.

9. REPORTS ON ARTICLE 7 INFORMAL GROUP DISCUSSIONS INDICATE THAT THE WPS MAY WELL END THIS WEEK WITHOUT A CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. RUMOR HOLDS THAT A STALEMATE WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS. AS MUTUALLY INTERESTED PARTIES WANT TO SEE A FAVORABLE REPORT GIVEN TO THE MARCH MEETING OF AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS IN TUNIS, A POSSIBLE OUTCOME MAY BE SIMPLE AGREEMENT ON ELEMENTS OF A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD BE FLESHED OUT AT A LATER DATE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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